

Amusements Co-Night

CASINO—8—Princess Methusalem.
MADISON SQUARE THEATRE—8:30—The Rajah.
HUNTER'S GARDEN—8—The Millionaire.
THEATRE COMIQUE—8—The Millionaire.
UNION SQUARE THEATRE—8—The Millionaire.
14TH STREET THEATRE—8—The Millionaire.

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Business Notices.

"ALDERNEY BRAND"
CONDENSED MILK.
THE AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY
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ing delivery of same at local address when requested.
WEEKLY TRIBUNE—NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
All advertisements intended for insertion this week must
be handed in to the publisher's office on Monday
of each week.

TERMS OF THE TRIBUNE.

Postage free in the United States.
DAILY (without Sun) \$12.00 per year, \$2.00 per month.
DAILY (with Sun) \$15.00 per year, \$2.50 per month.
Semi-weekly (with Sun) \$10.00 per year, \$1.50 per month.
By mail, P. O. Order or in registered letter.
Address: THE TRIBUNE, New York.

New-York Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY

NEW-YORK, MONDAY, AUGUST 20.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—The Supply bill was finished and the
Irish Tramway bill passed its third reading in Par-
liament yesterday morning. Anti-Jewish
outbreaks have occurred in Pansol and Rostow.
Russia.—King Alfonso was loudly cheered on
his journey from Madrid to Valencia. The
Comte de Chambord is still weak. There
were 310 deaths from cholera in Egypt on Sat-
urday.

DOMESTIC.—Judge Jeremiah S. Black is dead.
President Arthur arrived at Low Mesa on the
Gros Ventre River, in Wyoming Territory, on Sat-
urday. A letter was made public yesterday
from Howard Potter, in which he accuses the Rev.
J. T. Backus and Platt Potter of having turned to
their own profit trust funds of Union College.
A monument to George Washington was dedicated
at South Mountain, Maryland, on Saturday.
George Heron was killed by Lathen Codner at
Cedar Falls, Iowa, for the abduction of the latter's
daughter.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.—A severe rain and
thunderstorm visited the city yesterday.
A case of highway robbery and probable
murder was reported to the police in Mor-
risania. The remainder of the American
Rifle Team returned home from England.
Clara Louise Kellogg was a passenger on the
Alaska. A picnic was given in aid of the un-
employed telegraph operators. Dr. Norvin
Green arrived here on board the Alaska.

THE WEATHER.—Faint local observations in-
dicate clear or fair weather, with slight changes in
temperature. Temperature yesterday: Highest,
83°; lowest, 69°; average, 74°.

The account of the highway robbery in
One-hundred-and-fifty-sixth-st. Saturday night
is anything but creditable to the police force.
It is startling to read of a man's being pur-
sued, fired at and caught by highwaymen in the
streets of the city before it is fairly dark, and
then left, mortally wounded, to crawl to
a place where he could find assistance. It is
useless to ask the whereabouts of the police at
the time. They are hardly ever about when
needed. No doubt we will be told that it is
all owing to the fact that there are not enough
patrolmen, though only recently the force
was increased in that part of the city.

The prospects are good for an international
rifle match at Creedmoor next year. The
English team has \$5,000 subscribed already
for that purpose. The American riflemen have
learned that practice makes perfect, in shoot-
ing at a target as well as in other things, and
they will no doubt be better prepared for a
contest next year. At the Creedmoor range
the riflemen will not have to stand in water up
to their ankles even if the weather is bad, as
Captain Howard says was the case at Wim-
bledon. Perhaps that will improve the chances
of the Americans next time; though they
ought to be able to endure as much as the
English.

Apparently there is a scarcity of live topics
for discussion in Kentucky as a dead one oc-
cupies so much public attention. The spirited
controversy which has been going on there
for some time over the killing in 1864 of
John Morgan, of the Confederate Army, has not
added anything to the truth of history.
The controversial accounts of the killing are
about as numerous and varied as were those
so often published in this State in regard
to the death of William Morgan, of Batavia,
who was concerned in the anti-Masonry agita-
tion. The official reports made in 1864 stated
that John Morgan was shot while attempting
to make his escape. There has been nothing
published since to cause any impartial person
to believe otherwise.

In his letter printed in to-day's TRIBUNE
Mr. Porter continues to expose free-trade
fallacies. Under a protective tariff the woolen
industry of Germany has been steadily in-
creasing, while the same industry in free-
trade England has been steadily decreas-
ing. The difference is the more striking be-
cause Germany was decreasing her woolen
exports previous to the adoption of a protec-
tive tariff. Since that time the home product
has been enormously increased, imports have
largely fallen off and the export trade has
been almost doubled. As the figures show,
Germany under protection has come nearer by
\$26,000,000 to supplying her own wants and yet
can manufacture cheaply enough to increase her
foreign market \$30,000,000. On the other
hand England has lost \$76,000,000 of her
foreign trade in the same class of goods, and
increased her importation of them to the
value of about \$10,000,000. These are solid
facts, the importance of which is heightened
by the knowledge that during the same time
there has been a great improvement in the
wages of Germany.

Close observers of affairs in Ireland will agree
with the views expressed in our London let-
ter that the improvement in the state of the
country is principally on the surface. Law-
lessness has been greatly reduced; but the
temper of the people has not changed. That
has remained in about the same warring con-
dition for over a century. It is not clear just
what will satisfy the Parnell party. Its leaders
are now organizing an extensive electoral
campaign; and we are told that they will
agitate for an Irish Parliament, and the
further extension of the demand for a peasant
proprietary; and for the selection of National-
ists of the League school for all public places
in Ireland. That is an extensive programme.
The demand for peasant ownership with or with-
out compensation to landlords probably covers
the ground of Mr. Parnell's recent threat to

lead a deeper and more desperate agitation
than any yet known. He has met with such
success heretofore that his following in Ire-
land is increasing, as recent elections show.
The Registration bill which Mr. Gladstone in-
troduced at the present session, if it becomes a
law, will increase the voters in Ireland by
lowering the franchise, and that will undoubt-
edly add to Parnell's strength. The Govern-
ment policy, as shown in the guaran-
tee of \$5,000,000 for cheap tramways,
is to furnish work for a portion of the people
and to aid others in emigrating, and thus
remove disaffection. So far the Government
has not met with much success in pacifying
the country, though its Land Commission has
taken from landlords over \$20,000,000, as
shown in the reductions made to tenants.

JUDGE BLACK.

The death of Judge Jeremiah S. Black
removes another of the strong figures in that
generation of statesmen who are fast passing
away—the men who played parts in the great
political drama of which the civil war was the
tragic climax. There are many other things
for which he will be remembered, though his
share in the events immediately preceding the
rebellion, which have just been brought again
to public attention by the attacks of Jefferson
Davis, is his chief claim to historic fame. He
will long be remembered as one of the ablest
counsel before the Supreme Court, who took
liberties with that revered body which no
other lawyer ever ventured upon, and was as
much noted for the audacity and quaintness of
his wit as he was for his great learning and his
peculiar skill in clearness of statement and
readiness with authorities. Probably he was
the only lawyer that ever denounced Judges of
the Supreme Court to their faces. This was in
the arguments before the Electoral Commis-
sion, and it is said to have been remarked by
one of the Judges that if the same things had
been said before a court, Judge Black would
have been committed for contempt. As a lawyer
he will be remembered chiefly in connection
with the Milliken case, the series of Recon-
struction cases, the impeachment of Belknap,
and the Electoral Commission arguments. In
all of these, he was both the lawyer and the
politician, the dexterous servant of his clients,
and the persistent, aggressive Democrat. He
usually managed to make a "point" for his
client and his party at the same time, as he did
in the famous passage in the Belknap trial,
when he argued that the guilty Cabinet officer
was no worse than other men in the Govern-
ment had been, who had nevertheless gone un-
punished.

He had a strong, controversial tempera-
ment, and his numerous contributions to reviews
and magazines give quite as striking evidence
of it as his legal arguments and political ad-
dresses. He defended the Christian religion,
of which he was a devout believer, against
Colonel Ingersoll with almost the same
warmth and invective as he used in denounc-
ing "The Great Fraud of 1876." He was a
debater to the very last. The dispatches which
the other day that his first utterance when
he came to his senses after the operation
which gave him temporary relief and he found
that he was free from pain was, "I will now
proceed to answer the criticisms of Mr. Jef-
ferson Davis." There was hardly a time that
he was not involved in some controversy, yet few
public men had more staunch friends in both
parties. With his kindly nature and his free
rhetoric, his abundant humor and yet great
earnestness, he was one of the most interest-
ing characters in public life.

There was one period in his long political
career of more than forty years when he was
able to render valuable service to the coun-
try. This was when he sat in President
Buchanan's Cabinet, first as Attorney-General,
and for the last few months of the Adminis-
tration as Secretary of State. The extent of
this service has only become known in recent
years, for Judge Black, out of loyalty to
Buchanan, suffered himself to be blamed for
a long time for acts for which he was not
wholly responsible rather than justify himself
at the expense of his former chief and faith-
ful friend. He was a Democrat and held
views, especially with regard to the power of
the Executive to subvert rebellion, which could
not be accepted then or now, but there is no
question of his sturdy devotion to the Union,
nor that his influence over Mr. Buchanan was
a stout barrier for a time in the way of the
Secessionists. He brought Stanton into the
Cabinet by making the latter's appointment
as Attorney-General the condition of his own
acceptance of the post of Secretary of State;
and then with Stanton and Holt fought the
treacherous schemes of Floyd and Thompson.
Though he was identified with the general
policy of the Administration, it became
known, finally, that he had opposed it in part,
and had done much to save it from being
even weaker than it was. This was a patri-
otic service which will not be forgotten.

OHIO'S "NEW DEMOCRACY."

Recent events in Ohio have clearly im-
proved the Republican prospect, which was by
no means bad at the outset. There has been
another manifestation of the peculiar methods
of the Hoody-Pocketbooker new Demo-
cracy, which really meets with distin-
guished success at the primaries and in
conventions of the Democratic party. Money
was poured out so lavishly that the complete
defeat of Mr. Pendleton in Hamilton County
delights his adversaries, and those who con-
sider him a much more worthy and re-
spectable person than Bookwater do not
hesitate to suggest that it will be found easier
to buy a primary than to elect the ticket.
In truth, "Gentleman George" seems a
large man, indeed, in comparison with the
"new Democrats" of the pocketbook sort.
He was able enough to sustain himself with
credit in the Senate, even when his cause was
not good, and his antagonists were statesmen
of the first rank, but his advocacy of Civil
Service reform made him better known to his
political opponents and bitterly hated by his
political friends. Mr. McLean and the
Hoody-Bookwater faction have no use for
a man who wants to reform things. Hence
they go for Mr. Pendleton's scalp, and have
the best of him thus far.

The question occurs at once to many, when
they read of this performance in Hamilton
County, whether the Democratic managers
have not given up all hope of success. Men
of shrewdness do not usually begin to scalp
their friends on the threshold of a struggle in
which they hope for victory. The supporters
of Mr. Pendleton are undoubtedly a minority
in the Democratic party; a man is safe to be
in the minority in that party, if he goes be-
yond insincere and canting talk about reform
and makes an honest effort for it. But the
supporters of Mr. Pendleton are nevertheless
rather numerous, and they are voters of just
the sort that the Democratic party cannot
afford to snub at this time. In fact, if we may
suppose that the Democrats have 300 chances
of success in 1,000, about 299 of those chances
turn on the possible action of independent
voters who care a great deal for Civil Service
reform, and are not to be reached by any

pocketbook. The defeat of Mr. Pendleton,
because of his effort for a real reform, and by
means of the lavish use of money, is not ex-
actly calculated to make the independents
fond of "the new Democracy."

But it is not so clear, after all, that the
Democratic managers have abandoned hope
of success. Clear-headed old veterans, it is
likely, know what is coming. But the "new
Democracy" has been picking up new leaders.
Their distinguishing characteristic is a belief
that money can do everything. Mr. Book-
water, it may be remembered, was singularly
certain down to the day that Governor Foster
beat him about 25,000 votes. It is not un-
likely that Judge Hoody is also sanguine.
When the voting begins, it will be perceived
that a vast amount of money can be spent in
a political canvass without much to show for
it, if the management of the Democrats at all
resembles that when Mr. Bookwater was a
candidate. So far, Mr. Hoody seems to re-
sults quite closely in some things.

MORE COMPLICATIONS.

Without getting much light upon the absorb-
ing question opened by the Birdsall disclos-
ures as to who did really defeat Hancock, the
public is drawing some entertainment at least from
the manner in which the parties to the con-
troversy skip about and continually shift the
grounds of it in avoiding each other. The pres-
ent phase of it, which is brought about by Mr.
Birdsall's recent letter in *The Hartford Courant*
in defence of his own character, seems to
make it necessary to recall the contestants to
the starting point, from which they have greatly
strayed. The original question was: "Who
did defeat Hancock?" Mr. Birdsall, with a
commendable desire to enlighten public curi-
osity on that point, communicated anonym-
ously to *The Hartford Courant* facts said to
be within his own personal knowledge tend-
ing to show that Mr. Tilden behaved treacherously
in the campaign of 1880, and instead of en-
deavoring to promote Hancock's success, as he
pretended to be doing, did actually contribute
to his defeat. To this communication our con-
temporary, *The Sun*, put in at once a strenuous
and passionate denial, intimating that no such
person had an existence as the prominent Demo-
crat to whom *The Courant* ascribed its infor-
mation. Thereat Mr. Birdsall personally ap-
peared, repeating his charges and adding that
our contemporary did also contribute to Han-
cock's defeat by "infamously deriding" him
during the last two weeks of the campaign.

Our contemporary then, without making any
effort apparently to prove the falsity of the
charge against Mr. Tilden—which seems to us
to be the most important feature of the matter
—dropped that question entirely and offered a
reward of \$5,000 for the discovery of any
line or word in its editorial columns during
the last two weeks of the campaign that could
be construed as deriding General Hancock,
infamously or otherwise. The offer must have
been made either in extreme haste or a mo-
ment of forgetfulness, for at once all over the
country the press broke out with extracts from
the pages of our contemporary during the pe-
riod referred to, which certainly seem to an un-
prejudiced mind to be open to the construction
of having been intended to deride the unfor-
tunate Hancock. That seems at least to be
the pretty unanimous opinion of the Demo-
cratic press of the country. Some days hav-
ing elapsed without the \$5,000 being paid or
a committee of experts being summoned to
whom the question should be referred, our con-
temporary put the matter in an entirely new
phase by the publication of a series of affidavits
made in 1864 by neighbors of Mr. Birdsall who
averred that he was untruthful and had been
known as "Porgie," etc., etc.

And now to this attack upon his personal
character Mr. Birdsall has responded in a letter
published in *The Courant*, in which he says that
the affidavits above-mentioned were used in a
case against him as a trustee; that persons who
desired his removal "soured the country . . .
and succeeded in suborning a few men of
"the most questionable and disreputable char-
acter to make affidavits" against him; and
that he "unhesitatingly met the issue" and pro-
duced fifty-six affidavits of the best-known
men in the State, fully sustaining his character in
every respect. One of these, which is given in
full, is from Horace Greeley, whose farm ad-
joined that of Mr. Birdsall's father. Mr. Greeley
says he "considers him to be a man of strict in-
tegrity, good moral character, active, persever-
ing and correct in all business transactions." Mr.
Birdsall then proposes to deposit any sum from
a ten thousand dollars against a like one
amount upon the settlement of the question of
his personal character—whether, from the date
of his admission to the bar in 1855 he has been
guilty of any act or deed disgracing his pro-
fession or his position as an honorable and
truthful man. All this, which is well enough in
its way—and perhaps under the circumstances
Mr. Birdsall could hardly do less—does not
touch the real question at issue, which is, "Did
Mr. Tilden desire and contribute to the defeat
of Hancock?"

If the Editor of *The Sun* in a moment of in-
advertence or forgetfulness offered \$5,000 for
the discovery of any line or word that could
be construed as deriding General Hancock, and if
he will of course pay it in due season; and if he
is certain that Mr. Birdsall's character can be
proved to be so bad as to render him unworthy
of belief, he will no doubt put up the \$10,000
proposed by that gentleman and proceed to his
proposals. In that case he will recover the \$5,000
previously lost and have \$5,000 "to the good."
But these things, we must insist, are foreign to
the issue. The original question as stated was
plain and simple. To that we now recall the
disputants. Let us have that answered, and no
further complications.

SANITARY RESULTS OF EDUCATION.

The usual arguments against the cramming
system in the public schools have been re-
peated this year in the British House of Com-
mons. Mr. Smith, member for Liverpool, read
a large number of letters from schoolmasters
and physicians as evidence upon which to base
the conclusion that the physical and mental
powers of school-children, especially of girls,
were becoming impaired through the undue
pressure of competitive examinations. Some
of these letters gave instances of sleeplessness
and a general loss of health on the part of
children, and the prediction was made that
if this system of overworking pupils, particu-
larly girls, were to go on for a few genera-
tions, England would become a poor, sickly
nation. These and similar arguments were
most successfully refuted by Sir Lyon Playfair,
who proved, in the first place, that the educa-
tional standards in England, age for age, were
the lowest in Europe, and, secondly, that there
had been a marked improvement in the general
health of children since the Education Act had
been in force. He contended that it was not well-
regulated work that was injurious to the brain
or health of children, but ill-regulated work; and
the fact that since 1870 there had been a de-
creased mortality of about 33 per cent among
children between the ages of five and fifteen,
and also between the ages of fifteen and twenty,
was a conclusive proof that the minds

of the young were not being educated at the
expense of their bodies. The fact that there
were as many cases of brain disease among
children during the decade preceding the
passage of the Education Act as there were
during the following decade was cited as an
irrefutable proof that the cramming system,
if there were any such thing, was not adding
the paces of the rising generation.

These positive statements are of high value
because they are based upon the system of
national education as a whole and the general
health of the entire school population. The
strictures upon the evils of over-pressure,
so often made in the United States as well
as in England, are grounded upon
exceptional cases of physical impairment
or mental derangement. There has been a
tendency in recent years to exaggerate the im-
portance of such instances. Because one col-
legian out of a thousand shoots himself in a
moment of abnormal depression, it has been
urged that all were the victims of a disastrous
forcing process. Because here and there a
pale and ghostly valedictorian, like the unfor-
tunate brother of "Miss Gilbert's Career,"
pays the penalty of success at college in hectic
flush and premature hemorrhage, the educa-
tional methods now in use have been denoun-
ced as a senseless and murderous system
of exhausting and death-dealing "cram."
The broad generalizations made by Sir Lyon
Playfair serve to correct such rash inferences
as these. They show that the hygienic aspects
of education are highly satisfactory, inasmuch
as children are decidedly healthier when they
go to school than they are when they do not.
These vital statistics are as eloquent in their
way as the figures showing that there has been
a steady decrease in juvenile crime in England
since the establishment of the educational
system. They indicate that in spite of the
clamor raised against the over-strain of the
forcing process, the schools are promoting the
ends of public health as well as of public
morals.

Mr. Mundella, in the course of the debate
to which we have been referring, maintained that
the Education Department was doing its
utmost to avoid the danger
of over-pressure by establishing a
fair average test of scholarship in place of in-
dividual standards, and by making it an
object for teachers to be thorough in their
work. The grant for a child passing a grade
well was two shillings, while only one shilling
was allowed for a child passing indifferently.
The practical inference of the teacher being
that it was better to teach one subject well
than two badly. Mr. Mundella argued that
the greatest danger in the English school
arose from the poverty of the lower classes,
whose children were wretchedly underfed.
He stated that teachers in London were some-
times forced to send out and buy bread in
order that the pupils under their charge
might be kept up to their work.
This is happily a peril to which children in
American public schools are not exposed.
They are not underfed at home, and while
there is room for improvement in the methods
of instruction, there is a fair degree of thor-
oughness. It is mainly in private schools of
an expensive class that what is known as the
cramming system is found, and even there it
is the memory rather than the mind that is
overtaxed. The effort to acquire a little of a
great many things and to retain that little for
a limited period is less exhausting than is
generally supposed. It makes parrots of chil-
dren. But parrots do not suffer in body in
consequence of persistent audacious practice;
nor is the health of children necessarily im-
paired when their memories are unduly exer-
cised without a corresponding mental strain.
Still this forcing system is to be avoided, and
the work of school-children equalized through-
out the year. When wisely regulated, educa-
tion must have an excellent hygienic effect.

MONEY AND BUSINESS.

Last week the point of chief disturbance and
alarm was the stock market. The collapse in
the leather trade had hardly terminated when
it was seen that there was more than ordinary
trouble in some stocks. The rapid unloading,
though it attracted much attention, did not
cause general suspicion that any important
house was in danger, nor were current rumors
regarded as entitled to credit. Thus the failure
of Ballou & Co. was a general surprise, and it
is even more surprising perhaps that it led to
no other disasters of importance, and was so
soon followed by a vigorous rally in prices.
Those who see the hand of some magician in
everything that happens in the Street had
some excuse in this case for the inference that
the sharp decline had been engineered in order
to accomplish the failure of Ballou & Co., or
to bring about some other special result, and
that, as soon as the desired ends were attained,
the same management caused the subsequent
advance. There was really nothing more dis-
heartening early in the week, in the general
condition of business, than there had been the
previous week, nor was there any other im-
provement toward the end of the week in any
other quarter as appeared in the stock market.

It was an encouraging fact, however, that
the strike of telegraph operators had come to
an end. The effect of this strike on other
branches of business had been considerable.
Though the Western Union Company had actu-
ally improved its service very much before the
formal termination of the strike, there was
prevalent a doubt whether messages of im-
portance could be surely and promptly trans-
mitted. If there were no other reason for this
doubt, it was justified by the repeated cutting
of wires, night after night. Now that the
companies can use all their instruments, the
interruption of some circuits would hardly
disturb commercial business at all, nor is there
reason now, as there was before, to expect a
continuance of trouble. A marked improve-
ment in most branches of business ought to
result, and especially where operations for the
supply of actual consumption have been in-
terrupted.

The banks reported a loss of \$2,854,600 in
their reserves held, but the questionable ac-
curacy of the statement in this instance may be
inferred from the fact that loans increase
about as much as reserves decrease, while
there is a shrinkage of \$1,600,000 in deposits.
The semi-barbarous system of averages may
account in part for these changes, but the
Treasury took in a large amount of money
during the week, and some was also sent
West by the banks. It would not be astonish-
ing, therefore, if the reserves at the end of
the week were lighter than the statement
indicated. A fall in the reserves at this sea-
son is so fully to be expected, however, that
there would be good reason for apprehending
financial trouble if a fall should not appear.
At present the reserves are higher than they
have been at this date in any year since resump-
tion, and are not declining as rapidly as
they did in 1879 or 1881. But much will de-
pend upon the course of speculation for the
next month. Some bankers are looking for
imports of gold before long, and the fall in
exchange last week tends to support their
views.

Wheat and flour seemed strong early last

week, but the gloomy advices from Europe
have been followed by more favorable ac-
counts of the crop, and prices declined again.
Sympathy with the Liverpool market has
apparently governed dealings in cotton, and
the price slightly declined. A mixed market
in provisions resulted in no important change,
but it looked stronger on Saturday. Oil was
better supported than would naturally have
been expected, in view of the opening of
several wells that promised largely; the ad-
vance in refined is thought to indicate the
intention of the Standard people to advance
crude oil also. The sales were at times large,
and the market was excited, though it closed on
Saturday only 1½ cents higher than the week
before. There has been no change of interest
in iron, and operations in dry goods have been
checked by the state of affairs in Wall Street,
though buyers from the South and Southwest
have begun to make more liberal purchases.

It is gratifying to note that the recently pub-
lished reports of the street car companies show a
large increase in the prosperity of these pub-
lic-spirited and self-denying corporations. By the
way, could they not now afford to pay to the city
the considerable sums which some of them have
been owing for years for license fees? No one
would be blood-brothered enough to ask them to
lessen their dividends for the purpose of paying their
honest debts. But it now seems likely in some
cases that, if they put off paying their debts any
longer, they will be forced to increase their divi-
dends in order to dispose of their profits. Countless
hearts would bleed to see them reduced to this
painful necessity.

Ex-Sheriff James O'Brien's efforts to start a new
party have not yet been crowned with that success
which the true lover of his kind yearns for. It is
well known that the crying need of this city at this
time is a new party. We have so few of them—
there are not more than seven classified under the
general name of Democratic, with scattered fac-
tions here and there which cannot be grouped
under that title—that all such eminent reformers as
Mr. O'Brien should lose no time in adding to the
number. Such absolute disinterestedness as has
glowed through every part of his political career,
such complete and unvarnished freedom from guile
of every sort as distinguishes his character, set him
in a class by himself. By the way, the Register's
office will be vacant this year! Fat pickings there
for an unselfish leader of a new party! But, no,
it cannot be.

A good many young soldiers in Belgium are evi-
dently of the opinion that the sword is mightier than
the pen, and that although "a little learning" may
be "a dangerous thing," there is no reason why it
should alarm men whose profession commits them
to unconcern of any and all sorts of dangers. It
appears from a report of the School Commission of
Inquiry, just published, that of the 12,993 recruits
admitted to the Belgian army in 1882, 2,437 were
unable to write, while only 1,975 of the whole
number obtained two marks for a satisfactory hand-
writing. Worse than this, not more than 3,190
could make a multiplication and but 1,315 knew
the four ground rules of arithmetic well enough to
apply them to the solution of the most elementary
problems. The answers given by these valiant sons
of Mars to questions on religious topics indicate
that, going further than the well-known statesman
who expressed a disinclination for Sunday schools
in politics, they are opposed to Sunday-schools
per se. They were asked concerning their knowledge
of Moses, and the vast and various misinformation
that flowed from their lips in response was as sur-
prising as it was amusing. The schoolmaster cer-
tainly cannot be abroad—at least he has yet to
cross the Belgium frontier.

It is said that a summer hotel has been discovered
whose proprietor does not claim in his circular that
there is "good fishing in the immediate neighbor-
hood." Owing to the fact that no diagram of the
hotel is furnished, that its location is not mentioned,
and that the name of its eccentric proprietor is
withheld, the propriety of receiving the report with
a good deal of suspicion is obvious.

The fossil footprints at Carson, Nev., are attract-
ing much attention among the scientific men of
Europe as well as America. Dr. Harkness, of San
Francisco, made an elaborate statement in a recent
paper before the California Academy of Sciences of
his reasons for believing that they were the foot-
prints of a biped. The chief basis for this belief is
the fact that the footprints show no sign of the pads or
cushions with which Nature protects the feet of all
animals that walk, whether man, or beast, or fowl.
Dr. Harkness does not find in any of the 400 foot-
prints of the so-called "Nevada men" the slightest
indication of any imprint of a pad or toe or nail or
instep or heel. They are surrounded and crossed by
the tracks of other animals, all of which can be
identified by their characteristics. His conclusion
is that the foot making the impressions referred to
was protected by a sandal of some kind, which
would only have been done by a man. He asserts
also that the central portion of some of the foot-
prints is more depressed in the line of its long diame-
ter than at the border, showing that the sole of the
sandal had become moistened by contact with the
mud and so had yielded. He argues that on the
theory that the tracks are not those of a sandal, the
impressions can only be accounted for on the suppo-
sition that the tracks are made by different species of
animals. The angle varies and the curve is much
sharper in some than in others, which could be ac-
counted for by a variation in the sandals. If the
tracks are those of a quadruped, he says, the animal
must at all times have placed his hindfoot so exactly
in the track of his forefoot as to leave no mark, and
that both forefoot and hindfoot must have been
shaped exactly alike. The length of step he finds
no greater than that of the ordinary man of full
stature, while the width of the straddle or trackway
—eighteen inches—while he admits is abnormal, he
attributes to the care used in walking over muddy
ground with feet covered somewhat like snow-
shoes. Professor O. C. Marsh insists, on the other
hand, that the length of the impressions, eighteen to
twenty inches, and the width of the straddle, would
be found in the footprints of a large sloth, and says
that some of the tracks show impressions of the
forefoot.

Two considerations combine to make the Demo-
cratic leaders very gloomy as they think of '84.
These are, first, their inability to elect the old
ticket; second, their inability to prevent any new
ticket that they may agree on from being de-
feated.

PERSONAL.

Mr. C. C. Haskell, of the Henry Bill Publishing
Company, has, says *The Norwich Bulletin*, received a
letter from a gentleman in Calcutta, India, apply-
ing for the agency for Mr. Blaine's forthcoming
book in that far-away land.

Mr. John R. French, ex-Sergeant-at-Arms of
the United States Senate, is delivering throughout
the country a lecture entitled "Ten Years About the
Senate." It contains a series of interesting and
clear-cut sketches of the leading Senators during
the period between 1869 and 1879.

Professor Seelye, of the University of Cambridge,
England, the author of "Ecco Homo," has written
the article on Napoleon for the new volume of the
"Encyclopaedia Britannica." On account of the
importance of the subject and the high reputation
of the writer, an unusually large amount of space
has been allotted to the article.

The Rev. D. Parker Morgan, for several years

Promer that the British heir-apparent declined to
accept it.
Mr. Russell, a wealthy Mississippi planter, who
is at the Rockbridge Alum Springs with his wife
has with him also, says *The Baltimore Sun*, "an
adopted child, twelve years old, who is the son of
the late General John B. Hood. Of the Hood chil-
dren the two eldest daughters were taken by Mr.
Maury, a relative of Mrs. Hood, and are now being
educated in Germany with his daughters. John B.
Hood, Jr., the eldest boy, is the one adopted into the
family of Mr. Russell. A pair of twin girls are the
adopted children of Mr. Adams, of New-York;
another pair of twin girls are in the family of Mr.
McKee, of Mississippi; another boy, Duncan, by
name, is the adopted child of a wealthy maiden
lady of New-York; and another, Owen, is in the
family of another New-Yorker, residing in the
Empire City. Thus have the fatherless been cared
for. A singular coincidence is related in connection
with three of the gentlemen who have taken the
place of their fathers in the interesting children.
Messrs. Russell, Adams and McKee were classmates
at Yale College. They are all married, but neither
has children. Without concert of action, or even
knowing what the others were about to do, each
applied for and was given the charge he now has
applied for and was given the charge he now has

GENERAL NOTES.